



John Skiba, Esq.

Skiba Law Group, PLC



Bankruptcy attorney John Skiba is watching his practice take off by offering unconventional and innovative ways to help his clients through some of the hardest times in their lives. While he offers traditional bankruptcy representation, Skiba has also expanded his practice to include limited scope services for clients who can't afford a lawyer and are facing a law suit by a creditor.

"You run into a lot of clients who can't afford to hire an attorney to defend themselves," Skiba said. "So they hire us to help them with a specific portion."

Sometimes, it is as simple as drafting a letter or helping draft a complaint or responding to a lawsuit, to more comprehensive services such as representing them at trial or even legal coaching.

"There are not a lot of people offering these types of services, and some attorneys are uncomfortable with the idea," Skiba said. "Since I started that part of my practice at the end of summer it's actually been quite popular. It helps people navigate the legal system without incurring the large costs associated with full representation."

Skiba hasn't taken a traditional approach to practicing law. He's worked for the County Attorney's Office, private firms and jumped back into to his own practice. As a father of six, running his own firm

makes sense in terms of balancing his personal and professional duties.

Skiba is drawn to bankruptcy because of the relief it provides to financially-struggling clients. One tough aspect in his line of work is breaking through some of the misconceptions about bankruptcy.

"There's a perception people are filing just to skate on everything," Skiba said. "I've almost never seen that happen in the thousands of consultations I have done. People approach bankruptcy as an absolute last resort, even to their detriment. People drain their retirement accounts to pay debts when they could have been protected if they filed bankruptcy."

Most people who come in for a consultation are nervous, and many times in tears. The stress of constant calls from creditors can even cause medical problems in some instances. Letting people know there is a way out during such trying economic times is something that provides a great sense of relief. From the first consultation, a bankruptcy attorney can offer hope where too many people think there is none.

Skiba has not always known he wanted to be a lawyer. He studied criminal justice, played football in college and planned to embark on a career as a police officer. While serving on an LDS mission in England, Skiba met an FBI agent who encouraged him to go into law.

After finishing his undergrad coursework at Brigham Young University, Skiba attended law school at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where professor and nationally renowned bankruptcy scholar Bruce Markell sparked his interest in bankruptcy law. Today Skiba is a member of the State Bar of Arizona, the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys (NACBA) and the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI).

When it's time to relax, Skiba enjoys spending time with his family, and recently decided to start raising beef cattle on his Queen Creek property.

"It's something totally different from law, a different side of things that just kind of gets your mind out of the office," Skiba said.

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